



Face Paint, Advanced Camouflage — Compact Form

Overview:

Currently fielded camouflage face paint in compact form provides passive camouflage protection in the visible and near-infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, and also meets soldier acceptability and safety criteria. Additional performance enhancements being addressed include thermal infrared camouflage protection and insect repellency to meet user needs stated in the approved joint operational requirements document (ORD). Camouflage face paint is designated as a medical item due to its application to the skin. Responsibility for the item belongs to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Natick Soldier Center, due to its expertise in soldier camouflage, has had a long relationship (since the early 1980s) with the US Army's Medical Command as the material developer for camouflage face paint products. In 1998, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was formed to develop an advanced camouflage face paint compact. Agencies included Natick Soldier Center, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, U.S. Army Infantry School, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Program Manager - Soldier Equipment, Defense Supply Center of Richmond, and other agencies in the U.S. Army Medical Community.

Description:

The advanced camouflage face paint in compact form with and without insect repellent (DEET) has been evaluated for user acceptability and is currently available to soldiers as of Jan 03. Camouflage Face Paint with insect repellent, National Stock Number (NSN) 6840-01-493-7334, and without insect repellent, NSN 6850-01-493-7309, provide visual and near infrared camouflage protection, while the compact with DEET provides a threshold of eight (8) hours of insect repellent. Both are furnished in compact form, which contains a full size unbreakable stainless steel mirror that is resistant to DEET and won't degrade over its shelf life. Both compacts contain five compartments of pigmented formulations (green, loam, sand, white, and black). The compacts provide sufficient material for 20 applications of green, loam, and sand, and 10 applications of black and white. The compact is suitable for multi-terrain environmental conditions from arctic to desert. Face paints with insect repellent are supplied in a tan colored compact, while the non-repellent face paints are furnished in an olive drab compact for quick identification. Thermal infrared camouflage face paints are not currently available to the soldier. Advanced research and development efforts are ongoing between Natick Soldier Center and other government agencies and contractors. After completion, efforts to combine thermal face paint with insect repellent will be addressed.

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